

Project Sangamam-Poondi
Improvements to Government Schools in Poondi Block, Thiruvallur Dist.
Asha Chennai Proposal – Year 2015-16
March 11th 2015

Background:

Asha Chennai has been working with eleven government primary schools in the Thiruvallur district under Project Sangamam-Poondi.

Thiruvallur is one of the poorer districts of Tamilnadu. It has always been a water scarce region. Proximity to Chennai has its positives as well as negatives. While a lot of people find employment in Chennai and auxiliary industries for Chennai (like brick kilns and sand quarrying), the local resources are taken away from the region including water in the form of Poondi reservoir, river sand, human workforce etc. All this has left the mainstay of this region agriculture in a bad situation.

The scenario as regards education in this district is similar to the rest of Tamilnadu. Government schools exist but with serious deficiencies. Private (read English medium) schools are coming up and eating into the student force of the government schools. But the private schools are often worse in terms of the quality of the teaching. Asha Chennai believes the revival and strengthening of the government schooling system is essential to the implementation of any mass education initiative in India.

Government has been progressively giving more funds to the education sector. This has also had a beneficial effect on these schools in our project. ABL has been implemented in all the schools. Infrastructure at all these schools has been improved. Recently laptops have been given to middle schools. However like in other measures by government these also end up as half-measures. Buildings are not made fully functional with required things like weathering course, electrical wiring and fittings, plumbing and water arrangement etc. Appropriate training and staff level to effectively use ABL and also materials like trays etc. are not provided. Training is not provided to the teachers to use the computers effectively at the schools. We are looking at plugging these holes.

Here is a brief timeline of the things that have been taking place at this project.

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| 2004-05 | Asha Chennai started the project with Panchayat Union Primary schools at Kuppammal Chathiram, Kanakavalli Puram and Pattarai Perambudur |
| 2005-06 | We also started supporting the school at Kunnavalam and the Balwadis at Kunnavalam and Kuppammal Chathiram. |
| 2006-07 | We extended our support to the schools at Placepalayam, Nemiliagaram and Pudhur and also the Balwadis at Nemiliagaram. |
| 2007-08 | We added support for the school at SSA-Korattur. We also added libraries in all these schools. These are still functioning well. |
| 2009-10 | We discontinued the support for Kanagavalli puram, Kunnavalam and Pudhur and in its place added support for T.B. Puram and Yelappanaidu Pettai. We stopped support at Kanagavalli puram, Kunnavalam and Pudhur because of several factors like lack of adequate support and since the number of government teacher were sufficient for the strength of the school. We provided computer labs at all the schools with computers that were donated for us by the company Inautix. |
| 2011-12 | We discontinued support for Nemiliagaram because the government started one more primary school in that area and each school was so small that one teacher could manage the number of students (less than 30 each). We also discontinued support at SSA Korattur since the government itself appointed a third teacher (for 80 students) and our teacher |

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| | also stopped working because of marriage. |
| 2012-13 | We added support for the school at Allikuzhi and Thomur. |
| 2013-14 | We withdrew support for T.B. Puram and Yelappanaidu Pettai as both these schools have got additional teachers from the government and the teacher student ratio is good at these places. We added support for two more schools at Gandhigram and Kachur at the start of the year. Then we received a request from the middle school at Ramancheri as they were converting to an English medium school and they didn't have any teacher to teach English medium at the primary school. Since we wanted to participate in this experiment of the government we decided to support this school as well. During this year we also built toilets for the schools at Placepalayam and Allikuzhi with funds from Asha Frankfurt. |
| 2014-15 | We received funds for all the existing eight schools from Hyundai Glovis as part of their CSR initiative. This allowed us to take up 3 more schools. We added support for Nemiliagaram and Ammambakkam early in the year. We had earlier supported Nemiliagaram. We stopped the support since the school strength had fallen. However now about 20 children from nearby Brick Kilns come to this schools for 6 months a year. Se we decided to take that back. We also added support for another school at Kannigaiper. Thanks to assistance from Glovis and IIT-Madras students, we could establish libraries at the schools at Ramanchery, Gandhigram, Thomur and Allikuzhi. |

We are currently supporting Kuppammal Chathiram, Pattarai Perambudur, Placepalayam, Thomur, Allikuzhi, Gandhigram, Kachur, Ramanchery, Nemiliagaram, Ammambakkam and Kannigaiper.

Locally the activities of the project has been coordinated by the project coordinator Srinivasan. We have further provided teachers to these schools. We have been continuing to improve the infrastructure at these schools. We also sponsored the annual day functions at all these schools.

In doing all these activities we have been happy to find a supportive and energetic set of teachers at these schools. The district and panchayat officials have also been very supportive.

Last year Hyundai Glovis supported 8 of our schools and we funded 3 schools through our own funds. Glovis has assured us continued support for the 8 schools. We may be able to get support for the other 3 existing schools also through KOTRA (Korean Trade Association). If we do we will take up two more schools. We have made provisions for this in the budget.

Schools/Balwadis to be covered:

Kuppammal Chathiram School (from August 2004)

The primary school in Kuppammal Chathiram has 85 students and 3 government teachers. The school has adequate building space to comfortably seat the children. Asha is providing one teacher Deivanayagi to this school. The number of children at this school has been reducing over the years because of the presence of a English medium school right adjacent to this school. In the last two years the trend has started reversing.

Pattarai Perambuthur School (from Dec 2004)

This has 105 students and 4 teachers. This school has also seen a big drop in the number of children because of various factors including drop in the population of children in this area, joining convents in Thiruvallur and the closure of two brick kilns in the area which meant the children coming from there are no longer coming to the school. This trend has started reversing in the last two years.

Asha has been providing one teacher, Tamilselvi, to this school. The school was first chosen as one of the model schools for Activities Based Learning. This has now been adopted at all the schools we are supporting.

Placepalayam School (from Dec 2006)

The Panchayat Union Middle School at Placepalayam has been in existence since 1948. In 2012-13 thanks to the improvements we have done to the school, this has been converted into a high school. The high school (classes 6 to 10) and the primary school (classes 1 to 5) will function independently. The high school has 122 children and 6 teachers. The primary school has 65 children and two teachers of which one of the teacher is not effective because of health problems. We are proud to report that the students our teachers trained for a number of years have now performed very well in the 10th std board exams.

Asha is providing one teacher Anitha Devi for the primary school. They needed one more teacher at this school. The teachers appointed a PTA teacher Hepsiba to this school. We are planning to bring in Hepsiba also into the Asha fold this year.

Thomur (from 2011)

This school has also been upgraded to become a high school last year. Once again the primary school and high school will function independently. The high school will have 120 children and 5 teachers. The primary school will have 55 children and 2 teachers. We will continue our involvement with the primary school. Our teacher was helping them with their computers. We will continue teaching computers to the high school children as well.

Allikuzhi (from 2012)

This is also a remote school in the same vicinity as Placepalayam and TB Puram. Being a remote school getting government teachers who would stay is a problem. The school has 72 children and three government teachers of which two are very new. Asha has been providing one teacher for the school who also helps with teaching computers at that school as well as T.B. Puram and Placepalayam.

Gandhigramam (from 2013)

The schools is situated in a tribal area. The primary school there has 55 children and 2 government teachers. The area is a very poor area and is badly in need of our support. The Balwadi in the village attached to the school has not been functioning. We hope to add support for this school and Balwadi. One teacher we provide would be able to manage both these roles. Asha has been providing one teacher for this school.

Kachur (from 2013)

The school has 90 children and 3 teachers. They are in need of an additional teacher. Asha has been providing one teacher for this school.

Ramancheri (from 2013)

The school is a middle school. There are about 60 children in the primary sections (class 1 to 5) and about 20 children each in classes 6, 7 and 8. The school has 6 teachers which is close to being adequate. However this is one of the schools where English medium has been introduced. English medium has been introduced in classes 1 and 2. They need an additional teacher who knows English to teach these classes. It is to be noted that three of the government teacher in this school have good English. Couple of them have taught in English medium schools for several years before joining as government teachers. Asha has been providing one teacher at this school from about Sept 2013.

Nemiliagaram School (2006 to 2011 and from 2014)

This primary school was supported by Asha from 2006 to 2011. However with the opening of another primary school in another part of the village and because the brick kiln children stopped coming to the school the number of children coming to the school dropped significantly (to just about 35). The brick kiln children have once again started coming to the school. So in addition to the 35+ children the school has for 6 or 7 months they get an additional 20 children. They once again need our support. One of our teacher Santha Sophya was out on maternity leave for a good part of

2013-14. The school she was going to is being served by another teacher Tamilselvi. We plan to send Santha Sophya to Nemiliagaram.

Amambakkam (from 2014)

This school is along the Katchur to Placepalayam road, close to Katchur. The school has about 65 children and 2 government teachers. About 10 of these children come to this school from a nearby orphanage run by some Christian organization. The heartening thing in this school is that the government teachers are very stable. They have both been at the school for over 5 years and have no intention of moving out any time soon. They need one additional teacher.

Kannigaiper

Our choice of supporting this school was partly driven by the fact one of our good long time teacher Janova was finding it difficult to commute to the school she was teaching (Katchur) and hence we decided to add support to this school that is close to her place. Kannigaiper is in the Ponneri block of Thiruvallur dist. All the other schools we support are in the Poondi block. The school has 90 children and 4 teachers (incl HM). The HM is further the the Cluster Resource Coordinator (CRC). He manages the training etc. for 20 schools and is rarely present at the school. Further the school has introduced English medium in the 1st and 2nd standards. They need one additional teacher.

Other Schools

As the year progresses we will review and would like to take up 2 additional schools. We will make provisions for a teacher each as well as for general school materials.

Balwadis at Kuppammal Chathiram, Gandhigram, Allikuzhi, Placepalayam, Nemiliagaram, and Ammmambakkam

These Balwadi are the feeder Balwadis for the respective schools. There are 25 students at each Balwadi with one teacher and two Ayahs. We provided some mats and play materials for the Balwadis every year. We provided some sports materials, painted the Black boards and provided plates and tumblers to all the Balwadis. We need to provide some more materials to these Balwadis. All of them require electric connection/fittings and some sprucing up of the insides.

Other General Inputs From Asha

Asha Chennai has undertaken several projects with government schools. As part of these projects Asha Chennai provides several standard inputs including,

1. Materials for the children including uniforms, bags, slippers etc. as needed.
2. Other education material as appropriate for the class. This would range from crayons to atlases and geometry boxes.
3. Computers and a library of books along with the required furniture for all the schools. Most of the expenses related to this are covered as part of other projects.
4. Bring the teachers from these projects to Chennai for training. Trips by educationists from Chennai to these projects to monitor, provide onsite training and other inputs for the teachers in these schools.

Further this project being in a remote area would require a local coordinator and cannot be executed directly by the volunteers in Chennai. Srinivasan would perform the role of coordinator for the project.

Financial Report for 2014 – 15

The following table identifies the allocated and actual expenses under various heads for the project in the year 2014-15 for the 8 schools supported by Hyundai Glovis.

TBD

| SNo | Work Item (and what was executed) | Amount Budgeted | Amount Spent (approx) |
|-----------|---|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Teacher Salaries | Rs 570,000 | |
| | | Rs 171,000 | |
| 2 | Tumblers and Plates. | Rs 20,000 | |
| | | Rs 20,000 | |
| 3 | School bags for all children. | Rs 130,000 | |
| 4, 24-26 | Educational materials | Rs 80,000 | |
| | | Rs 120,000 | |
| 5 | Sports Materials | Rs 40,000 | |
| | | Rs 10,000 | |
| 6,7 23,27 | Teachers travel to Chennai + Evaluation and other training costs. | Rs 50,000 | |
| | | Rs 49,200 | |
| 8 | Black board and scribe area repainting | Rs 70,000 | |
| | | Rs 10,000 | |
| 9,13, 15 | Administration (Volunteers travel, Miscellaneous, Other Admin Expenses) | Rs 35,000 | |
| | | Rs 10,000 | |
| 10 | Coordinator Salary Rs 12000 * 12 + 3000 | Rs 147,000 | |
| 11 | Coordinator Vehicle Maintenance | Rs 5000 | |
| 12 | Furniture for the office | Rs 20,000 | |
| 14 | School day and other school functions | Rs 60,000 | |
| | | Rs 30,000 | |
| 16 | Replacement Mats at all schools | Rs 24,000 | |
| | | Rs 6,000 | |
| 17,18 | Kitchen shed at Gandhigram and Placepalayam. Plumbing work at the 3 new schools. | Rs 40,000 | |
| | | Rs 15,000 | |
| 19 | Play/Learning materials for the Balwadi. | Rs 40,000 | |
| | | Rs 20,000 | |
| 20 | Painting of scribe area and one black board at the Balwadis | Rs 6,000 | |
| | | Rs 3,000 | |
| 21 | Two uniform sarees and bag for teachers. | Rs 20,000 | |
| | | Rs 6,000 | |
| 22 | Rent + Electricity + Internet Connection for Thiruvallur Office | Rs 36,000 | |
| 28 | Scholarship for 4 teachers to pursue Bachelors degrees. (Part of the extra 3 schools proposal) | Rs 15,000 | |
| | Library setup at the schools. This was not a budgeted item. This was undertaken with the funds that remained from the Glovis funding for 2014-15. | | |

Project Details and Estimates for Year June 2015 to May 2016

| SNo | Work Description | Cost and Modification Details | Cost for 8 schools. | Cost for extra schools. |
|---------------------|--|---|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Common Items | | | | |
| 1 | <p>Additional teachers Kuppammal Chathiram – 1 Pattarai Perambudur – 1 Placepalayam -- 2 Thomur - 1 Allikuzhi – 1 Gandhigramam – 1 Kachur – 1. Ramancheri – 2. Computer Teacher – 1.</p> <p>Nemiliagaram – 1. Ammambakkam – 1. Kanniagaiper – 1. 2 new schools – 2 teachers.</p> | <p>Currently 11 schools 13 teachers (extra at Placepalayam and one computer teacher). Intend to increase this to 14. One extra at Ramanchery. May need the teacher to assist with computers because of increased need due to Sangamam-Kanini. Increasing average salary incl travel from 4500 to 5300.</p> <p>$11*5300*12 + 10*3000$ $5*5300*12 + 10*3000$</p> | Rs 729,600 | Rs 348,000 |
| 2 | Tumblers and Plates. Some replacements, say a total of 200 would be required at the 8 schools. Considering new schools a total of another 200 would be required for the new schools. | 200 * Rs.120 for each column. | Rs 24,000 | Rs 24,000 |
| 3 | Materials for the children. This would be chappals, bags (for the 1 st std children) and some other things for the 8 schools. It would be bags for the 3 extra schools. We will not be giving anything for the new school children this year. | <p>The Rs 200 is the average price for a mix of small and big bags from our vendor. This would depend on the vendor selected.</p> <p>We will bring the total to about Rs 200 per child for the existing 8 schools where we may not give bags for all the children.</p> | Rs 130,000 | Rs 40,000 |
| 4 | <p>Educational materials</p> <p>Geom. Instruments Slates Teachers kits Trays Colours Atlases Kits as required from training</p> | This does not include computers and accessories which we are doing for all our schools as part of the Education and technology effort. | Rs 100,000 | Rs 60,000 |
| 5 | <p>Sports Materials</p> <p>Plastic balls for younger children, Footballs for older children, Tennicoit rings, Skipping ropes, Snakes & Ladders, Ludo etc. board games</p> | | Rs 30,000 | Rs 20,000 |

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| 6 | Teachers training expenses This year we intend to bring the teachers to Chennai once a month for interaction with volunteers, potentially have follow up training etc. This would also include trainer costs and costs of training materials. | 10 trips at Rs 6000 per trip (all shown in the 8 schools section) + Rs 40000 for trainer fees and materials. | Rs 100,000 | |
| 7 | Black board and scribble area repainting | Twice a year for all schools. | Rs 40,000 | Rs 20,000 |
| 8 | Replacement Mats at all schools | 200 * Rs 120 for the 8 schools and 200 * Rs 120 for the others as well since there would be 2 new schools in that. | Rs 24,000 | Rs 24,000 |
| 9 | Coordinator Salary Rs 15000 * 12 + 3000 | Given the increase in the number of schools, increase in the responsibilities and given general increase in salaries, we are raising this to Rs 15,000. | Rs 183,000 | |
| 10 | Coordinator Vehicle Maintenance | Rs 10,000 | Rs 10,000 | |
| 11 | Stools for the ABL classes. We need to provide stools for 6 groups (i.e. 12 stools) to each school. | Based on initial estimate we got, if we were to make the stools with fresh materials, the cost is about Rs 2200 per stool. However Hyundai intends to make the stools with the materials from reused Pallettes with just some additional materials. We are estimating the cost to be Rs 1000. It will probably be event lower. | Rs 96,000 | Rs 36,000 |
| 12 | Fans for the schools | Fan will cost about Rs 2000. Labour and materials (some schools need wiring done, switch board etc.) approx. Rs 1000 per fan. Glovis 8 schools need 16 fans and 3 existing extra schools need 5 fans. | Rs 48,000 | Rs 15,000 |
| 13 | Tables, chair and Bureaus (one each) for the recently started schools: Ramanchery, Katchur, Nemiliagaram, Ammambakkam and Kannigaiper. | Table – Rs 3500. Chair – Rs 1500. Bureau – Rs 7500. | Rs 25,000 | Rs 37,500 |
| 14 | School day and other school functions | | Rs 60,000 | Rs 40,000 |
| 15 | Excursions for the children to Chennai and vicinity for one day. Note that we will only be able to take the 3 rd to 5 th children. Taking younger children on such a long trip will be difficult. | Initial 8 schools will have about 350 children and the new 3 schools about 120 children. We will probably not take the children from the new schools that we take up this year. Cost per child for travel will be about Rs 300. Cost per child for food and tickers will be Rs 200. | Rs 175,000 | Rs 60,000 |

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| 16 | Drinking water drums. Some of them have a drum. Bigger schools will need 2 drums. The total number will be used as required. | One eversilver drum will cost Rs 1500. 12 drums for the Glovis 8 schools and 6 drum for the other 5 schools. | Rs 18,000 | Rs 9,000. |
| 17 | Infrastructure/Civic works. Kitchen sheds for Katchur, Ramancheri and Nemiliagaram. Carpentry works at all schools. | Rs 25,000 per kitchen shed. Rs 30,000 totally allocated for all schools carpentry work (Rs 20,000 and Rs 10,000) | Rs 70,000 | Rs 35,000 |
| 18 | Teachers for the Balwadi. We are planning to provide 2 teachers for the 4 of the older Balwadis we have been supporting. These Balwadis do not have regular govt. teachers as they are shared with other Balwadis. | 2 teachers at a salary of Rs 3000 each. $2*3000*12 + 3000.$ | Rs 42,000 | |
| 19 | Play/Learning materials for the Balwadi. | For each Balwadi materials worth Rs 10000. | Rs 40,000 | Rs 30,000 |
| 20 | Painting of scribble area and one black board at the Balwadis | Rs 1500 per Balwadi. | Rs 6,000 | Rs 4,500 |
| 21 | Two uniform sarees and bag for teachers. | Rs 2000 per teacher. Note Balwadi teachers are also included. | Rs 26,000. | Rs 10,000. |
| 22 | Volunteers/interns from Asha Chennai would need to make one trip a month for two days to the villages to monitor the work, retrain the teachers and report back to Asha. | Each trip would require the following, Bus Fare + Local auto etc. – 500 Food – Rs 150. Honorarium – Rs 600 We are assuming two people travel together for the above. There would be 8 trips during the project duration. | | Rs 10,000 |
| 23 | Miscellaneous (emergencies, services, etc.) | This will be claimed only if there is a health of weather related emergency at the school. | Rs 10,000 | Rs 5,000 |
| 24 | Other Admin expenses (conveyance, documentation etc.) | | Rs 15,000 | Rs 5,000 |
| 25 | Rent + Electricity for Thiruvallur Office | Rs 3000 per month rent which will also include electricity. | Rs 36,000 | |
| | TOTAL | | Rs 20,37,600 | Rs 8,33,000 |

Fund Requirement Summary

Project Funding Requirement for Initial 8 schools
Project Funding Requirement for Extra 3+2 schools

Approx Rs 20.4 Lakhs.
Approx Rs 8.3 Lakhs.